

REMARKS

I. Introduction.

Claims 14, 16-21, 23-26, 38 and 39 are pending in this Application, of which claims 14 and 21 are independent. Claims 21, 23-26 and 39 are allowed. Claims 14, 16-20, and 38 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 40 and 41 are newly-added. Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 14, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 4,767,230 to Leas, Jr. (hereinafter “*Leas*”). Claims 14, 16, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 3,400,923 to Howie et al. (hereinafter “*Howie*”). Applicant respectfully submits that the cancellation of each of the rejected claims (i.e., claims 14, 16-20, and 38) obviates these rejections.

III. Allowable Subject Matter.

In the Office action, the Examiner indicated that claims 21, 23-26 and 39 are allowed. Applicant respectfully submits that newly-added claims 40 and 41 ultimately depend from allowed independent claim 21 and are therefore allowable as well. Support for claim 40 is found at least in paragraph 0059 of the Application as published, while support for claims 41 and 42 is found at least in paragraph 0065, support for claims 43 and 44 is found at least in paragraph 0055, and support for claim 45 is found at least in paragraph 0052.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if it would in any way advance prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Alex Starkovich/
Alex Starkovich
Reg. No. 56,925

SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P.
Two Renaissance Square
40 North Central Avenue, Suite 2700
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4498
(602) 528-4124